



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Human Services Committee  
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312  
November 29, 2018  
8:00 AM

## MINUTES

### Attendance

Beth Kerrigan (Chair), Chris Barnes (by phone) Ben Wenograd, Mary Fay

### Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Martha Church (Director of Library Services), Helen Rubino-Turco (Leisure & Social Services Director)

#### **1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor Kerrigan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

#### **2. Staff Reports/Communications**

The committee received the September 27, 2018 meeting minutes.

#### **3. Staff Review**

- a. **Library**-Martha Church reported on personnel updates, including several upcoming retirements. Specifically, Dee Williams will retire at the end of December after 30 years of service. A dessert reception in her honor is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4p.

Ms. Church discussed the internal restructuring of the department-the youth services will no longer be under the adults services but will merge with childrens service to maximize its success.

The Kindness Project wraps up this month and the department has received a number of goods for the food pantry.

Enrollment with Access Health CT has went well and has seen great turnout. The staff has been with the Library since the beginning and has added a broker to assist with the number of people participating. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to enroll.

- b. **Leisure and Social Services**-Helen Rubino-Turco briefed the committee on the renovations at Wolcott Park. Phase 1 has commenced and she discussed the various programs and other work to be completed. The DEEP state grant for improvements to Wolcott Park will be on the next Town Council agenda.

She reported on various project updates: The playscapes at Beachland are being removed and replaced. Payment is funded through CDBG. The old equipment will be recycled by a company, free of charge.

The lower restroom at Fernridge Park is undergoing renovations which will wrap up in the spring. The restroom at Eisenhower Park is still being scheduled. Staff is waiting for soil samples.

In September, the department hosted a strategic planning workshop to review their mission statement, and outline goals and objectives. The department will be rolling out a more streamlined POS process.

Regarding personnel matters, the department has made updates to its hiring process. Social worker interviews were held yesterday and an offer will be made to one of the candidates in the coming week.

Social Services has been very busy. There has been an overall increase in all social service programs offered since last year, including the Thanksgiving program. The office will participate in the holiday program differently this year- distributing gift cards instead of gifts for qualifying families.

She updated the committee on a recent state mandate which requires programs such as The Bridge to conduct pre-assessments and post assessments for youth receiving mental health services, known as the Ohio Scales for Youth.

#### **4. Business Items**

- a. **Proposal to provide discount for active military and national service members at select Leisure Services facilities** –Matt Hart introduced this item to the committee. Mayor Cantor would like to discuss the idea of offering discounts for active servicemen at certain leisure services facilities. Helen provided information on which facilities currently offer discounts to servicemen and the rates.

The committee will further discuss this item at its January meeting.

- b. **Proposal to establish uniform rates at Rockledge Golf Course-** Matt Hart presented this item to the committee. Staff would like to discuss a single, hybrid rate for Rockledge. Rockledge currently has a two-rate member fees for resident and non-resident. Currently, the golf course has more resident members than non-resident members and as a result, numbers are down. Helen provided rate comparisons of surrounding towns and highlighted certain trends.

The committee agreed to meet on December 13, 2018 at 8:00am to further discuss the uniform rate change proposal.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Deputy Mayor Kerrigan adjourned the meeting at 8:58 AM.